

Sex trafficking spikes
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December is AIDS
awareness month



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Friday, December 3, 2010

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Sam's End of Year Campaign begins today; great prizes for you and a loved one!



Sam's and special athletes make a super combination

Sam's by Manolo, Aruba's premiere shop for quality electronics and all the tech toys you and your family want most this coming Christmas, announces their end of year campaign, "Win Together with Sam's," along with their proud sponsorship of Aruba's Special Olympics.

Every purchase at Sam's, no matter how small, will earn customers a raffle ticket which they can fill in with their name, and that of a family member or good friend who will also receive one of the fantastic prizes from the weekly draw-

ing to take place until the end of the campaign.

There will be a daily drawing for a beautiful digital picture frame, the ideal means to display your photographic wizardry with today's method of capturing moments. Each Monday evening, Sam's will also conduct a drawing for some of the most sought after gadgets on today's market.

Every Monday, a lucky winner and their friend has a chance to win one of these valuable items: an Acer Inspire Netbook, Blackberry Torch, Pentax X90 DSLR camera, an

iPod Touch, or a Nintendo Wii. Those whose names are not pulled out during the daily and weekly drawings will still be eligible to win the grand prize: an LCD television; only one television will be awarded.

Continued on page 3

"Ta fin di Ana" –Sharon Rose launches new CD



The Holiday Season is here again and once more our local musicians and singers are producing CDs with merry songs to welcome Christmas.

This is also the case with our 'Primerisima,' Sharon Rose. She is presenting her new CD: 'Ta Fin di Ana, Vol II.'

The CD is has four gospel songs, the other songs are to hail the holiday season and there is even one song that can be listened to all year

long.

The songs are:

1. Aguinaldo Arubiano – A well known traditional song adapted to Papiamentu by Lurena Schwengle, who captured the essence of the song that enhanced Aruba and its heart warming people in a beautiful way.

2. Nos Ta Bendiciona – Lyrics and music by Gos Oduber. Gos is an inspiration; he always causes impact with his lyrics and music.

Continued on page 5



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MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Thousands of flooded Venezuelans wait for help

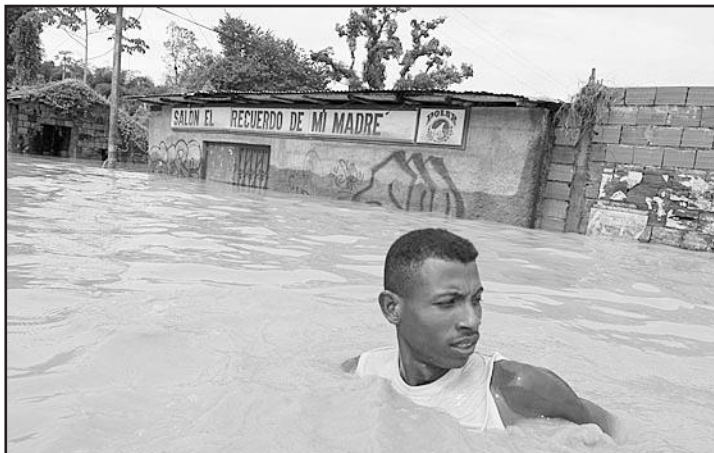
CARACAS, Venezuela (AFP) - Torrential rains have killed at least 31 people in recent days as the South American country grapples with its worst flooding in 40 years, officials said yesterday.

"We continue our search and rescue mission," Interior Minister Tarek El Aissami told reporters as he noted that another three people were still missing.

Authorities have set up 319 shelters across the country for those left homeless by rains that have impacted nearly 72,000 people.

The rains, which have poured almost non-stop for a week, are expected to last for another two days, according to meteorological officials.

As the sun finally broke through yesterday, officials were able to continue their emergency operations and deliver food and other supplies to the impact zone, mostly in



Handout picture released by the Gobernacion de Miranda shows a man wading through a flooded street in Higuerote. (AFP PHOTO)

north-central Venezuela, where beaches were closed and fishing was restricted.

The flooding has destroyed thousands of homes across a wide swath of the country, including in the capital Caracas.

Schools have been closed this week in 11 states, and the flooding has blocked key roads and shut down some airports and refineries in South Ame-

rica's largest oil producer.

Strategic Operational Command chief General Henry Rangel said his team had distributed 100 tons of food and 50 cleaning units, amid a deployment of some 10,000 troops to help provide aid.

Four states remained under a state of emergency: Falcon, Vargas, Miranda and the Capital District.

Sex trafficking spikes in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AFP) - Argentina has become a major center of human trafficking, with some 700 women from various countries forced into sexual servitude over the past year and a half, according to a new report released yesterday.

"The trafficking in people in Argentina over the past 10 years has grown alarmingly," said Fabiana Tunez, whose non-profit group, La Casa del Encuentro, conducted the study. "Over the past 18 months, more than 700 women and girls have disappeared -- kidnapped by prostitution rings."

Tunez said that of those forced into sexual slavery, 70 percent are from Argentina,

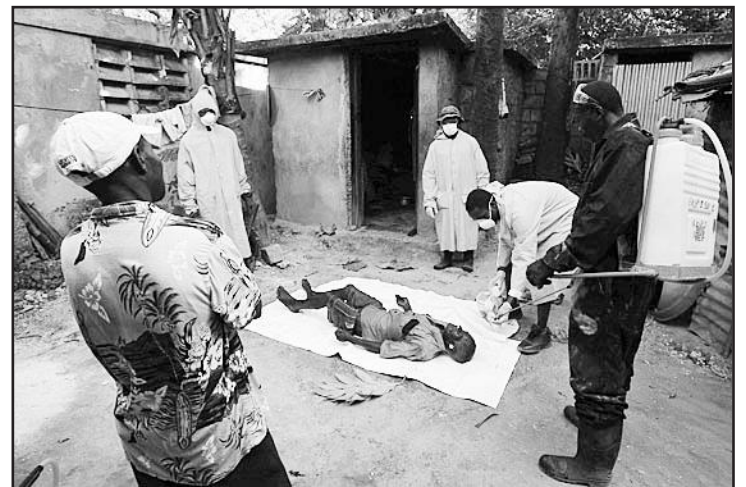
with most of the others coming from Paraguay, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil.

The information for the report was provided by women who escaped their captors, after either managing to flee or being liberated by police or family members who came to their rescue.

"One particularly worrying piece of information is that the age of the victims is declining," Tunez said.

"There is a growing demand for younger women -- from adolescents of 16 to girls as young as eight," she said, adding that young boys and male adolescents now also are being targeted for kidnap.

Haiti simmers amid vote limbo, anti-cholera attacks



Health workers at a tent city on the outskirts of Haitian capital Port-au-Prince recover the body of cholera victim Alcides St Charles, Haiti. (AFP PHOTO)

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AFP) - Tensions simmered in Haiti yesterday with its political future hanging in the balance, as protesters renewed charges of vote-rigging and cholera fears led to deadly mob violence.

As vote-counting continued ahead of the expected release of preliminary results on Tuesday, candidates in last weekend's presidential and legislative elections remained split over whether to endorse the outcome.

With the impoverished Caribbean nation in limbo, several hundred opposition demonstrators peacefully took to the streets of Port-au-Prince seeking annulment of the election that determines the successor to Rene Preval.

Twelve of the 18 contenders rejected Sunday's election shortly after polls closed, but the following day longtime opposition leader and pre-election favorite Mirlande Manigat and popular musician Michel Martelly, another leading candidate, reversed their calls for the polls to be scrapped.

An unexpected admission from the ruling INITE (UNITY) party that its candidate Jude Celestin may have lost has fueled a sense that

Haiti could experience a political watershed if it is able to manage a relatively peaceful transition of power and begin to turn around a dysfunctional, failing nation.

International monitors, while acknowledging widespread problems including violence and claims of fraud, declared the elections valid. Final results are expected on December 20.

But the stubborn cholera epidemic has cast a shadow over Haiti as the country trooped to the polls in the first election since a massive earthquake tore the country apart in January.

More than 1,800 people have died of the disease, according to official figures.

The epidemic took a ghastly turn yesterday when officials revealed that at least 12 people had been stoned or hacked to death in the last week by angry mobs accusing them of trying to spread cholera through witchcraft.

"Their corpses were burned in the streets" of towns and villages in the far southwest area of Grand Anse, the region in Haiti least affected by the disease, local prosecutor Kesner Numa told AFP.

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Boa Constrictor Taskforce calls for volunteers for a concerted hunt



Greg Peterson, Byron Boekhoudt of Coastal Zone Management, Diego Marquez and Minister Sevinger

The President of the Boa Constrictor Task Force, Diego Marquez, issued a call for hundreds of volunteers to take part in an intensive and extensive effort to eradicate this threat to indigenous island species during a press conference conducted at the government building in Oranjestad on Thursday morning, December 2.

Operating under the auspices of the Minister of Integration, Infrastructure and Environment, Oslin Benito (Benny) Sevinger, the taskforce announced three training sessions to be conducted over the coming week in recognizing and handling the reptiles which have no natural predator on Aruba to control their population.

Exactly when and how the species was first introduced to Aruba is unknown, but in a few years they have proliferated at an alarming rate, giving live birth to 64 young at one time; there are no native animals which threaten even the new born boas. The largest found on Aruba so far measures 2.9 meters, nearly 10 ft long.

A previous sweep bagged 800 boas, "but we can assume for every boa found there are at least another 4 in the bush," reports Mr. Marquez, who is the official consulting ecologist to the Arikok National Park. "The boa constrictor, which is not venomous, has a prodigious appetite and is a relentless hunter. It can reach the highest tree branches and is decimating many valuable bird species." They also threaten Aruba's bird population by

consuming many small vermin, larger insects and lizards that make the diet of the avian population. Though initially confined to more rural areas, over the past few years they have even been found in urban areas such as San

Centro di Barrio Piedra Plat on Tuesday, December 7, from 8 to 9 PM. The final session will be offered on Thursday, December 9 at the Centro di Barrio Savaneta at the same hours. Volunteers must go through the training



A boa eating a bird


Nicolas and Oranjestad.

Greg Peterson, President and founder of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation Foundation, joined the plea for volunteers for a massive effort to control the boas. Those interested in participating in the hunt can contact the organizing committee at boa.taskforce@gmail.com. The first training session is scheduled for tomorrow evening, December 4 at the Centro di Barrio Playa Pabao, on the outskirts of Oranjestad, from 6 to 7 PM.

The second training session will be conducted at the

to participate; the plan is to grab, bag and tag as many boas as possible during a single massive effort. The first hunt with will take place on Sunday, December 12. Depending on results and the number of volunteers, subsequent operations will follow. Mr. Marquez asserts at least 200 volunteers are needed for the hunt to be effective. "We are counting on the community to come out in force to protect our nature, wildlife and pets" expressed organizers.

by Rosalie Klein



Taj Mahal

Taste of India

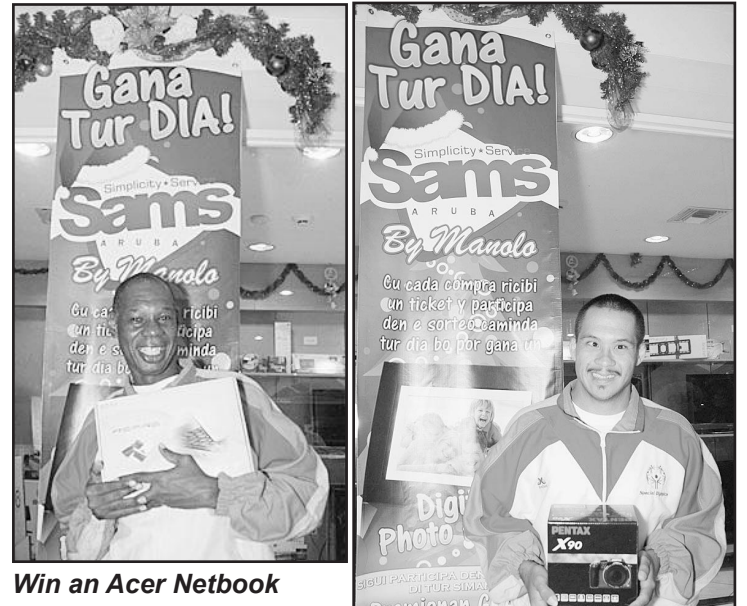
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Sam's End of Year campaign begins today

Continued from page 1



Win an Acer Netbook

Drawing the winners will be members of Aruba's Special Olympics team, each a medal winner at international games. Sam's owner, Manoj, proudly encourages the community to support their special athletes in their fundraising efforts to send a delegation to the 2011 World Special Olympics in Athens, Greece from June 25 to July 4. Three times since the Special Olympics was founded on Aruba a delegation has participated in the world games, and each time they have come home with the gold, silver and bronze. 14 athletes participating in five sport disciplines at the Shanghai games in 2007 returned to Aruba with 5 gold, 4 silver and 14 bronze medals in Track and Field, Table Tennis, Bowling, Swimming and Badminton.

Manolo and all the staff and Sam's want to be the first to say "Go Go for the Gold in Greece!" to Aruba's special athletes and all who will join him in cheering them on during the games in and following the results on the great

Win a pentax 190 dslr camera



Win an ipod Touch

prizes they are offering during their end of year campaign.

"It is always our practice to support one of the foundations that work for our community during the holiday season," commented Manoj, "We are very pleased this year to have the participation of Aruba's special athletes. We believe that together we can win in Greece, and at Sam's!"

by Rosalie Klein



We live our dreams!

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FantaSea at the Royal Plaza

BACK THEN



In 1972, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and ALM Dutch Antillean Airlines (now defunct) published a small paperback edition entitled "The KLM/ALM Guide To The Dutch Caribbean."

The section about Aruba has some delightful descriptions of the island back then. "The Big Beach With The Tiny

Island" starts by stating that "the first sight of Aruba by air is a long, curving, gleaming ribbon of sand so white and the water so clear you almost wish you had a parachute so you could jump in right there and then. Can it really be that beautiful when you get close? You bet."

The book offers thoughts

on the naming of the island. Perhaps it was by the Spanish Conquistadores in 1499 from "Oro Uba" ("there is gold"); or possibly "ora" (shell) and "oubao" (island), The Island of Shells. A later thought suggested that the name be changed to Esso-uba, when in 1929 the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey opened the Lago refinery, "not a token plant, but the largest refinery in the world at that time." It is clearly stated to visitors reading the book that "the refinery is on the opposite end of the from the beaches, and the trusty trade winds make sure that the exhaust gases are wafted far across the sea, away from the beaches, away from vacationers."

Golf, they stated then, was "strictly for addicts, people whose hands begin to shake after two days without a club."

With only the 9-hole Lago Club available, it was nevertheless considered a "unique" experience because of the oiled greens.

They neglected to add that one of the reasons for that was to keep the free-roaming goats from their daily excursions always searching for a good grassy meal. There were penalties if a stray shot hit a goat that were determined by the club's staff and the owner of the goat.

"Like all good Dutch islands, Aruba has its quota of Chinese, Italian, French, Javanese and American restaurants.

There are restaurants in a windmill, a houseboat, and on the beach....there are only two types, open-air and air-conditioned". A rave review was given to Le Petite Bistro at the Aruba Caribbean Hotel/now Radisson. "It's a handsome restaurant (not a bistro in the strict sense) with a modern tricolore decor, an immense chef de cuisine, (M. Lebrun, who put in time in Paris's



Hotel du Crillon, Hotel Georges V, and Restaurant Prunier), a tastevin-toting sommelier, and efficient service. The five-course, prix-fixe dinner costs a stiff \$15 (plus 10% service charge) and gives you a generous choice of gourmet items (too mouthwatering to list in today's edition.)

Nightlife lists "supper-clubs" (their spelling) at the few hi-rise hotels. "The granddaddy of Aruba supperclubs is the Klompen Club at the Aruba Caribbean (Tony Martin, Patachou, Liberace); the brassiest is Holiday Inn's Palm Beach Room; and the most elegant is the huge red-gold Rembrandt room at the Aruba Sheraton". A "gala" evening which includes dinner, wine and dancing cost \$10 per person.

"For most of the year (high



season December to April not included) you can have a double room in a Palm Beach resort for as little as \$20 a day (+5% room tax)."



Baby Beach with the Lago Refinery in background

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"Ta fin di Ana" –Sharon Rose launches new CD

Continued for page 1



A good choice as it promotes Sharon Rose's religious views. We are sure that the song will please everyone as it is dedicated to Jesus.

3. Navidad na Aruba – Lyric and music by Carlos Hart r.i.p. / Frank Croes

On Aruba we have many songs that make us emotional during the holiday season, and this song definitely is one of them. It highlights the Christmas feelings, especially when remembering friends and family members.

4. Aguinaldo Medley – Traditional songs.

The Aguinaldo group Las Palmeras is the primary reason why Sharon chose to make this CD. At the age of 8 she started singing with this group. This medley is nostalgic. Las Palmeras, under the direction of Elmita Luidens, use to give presentations all over Aruba in the years 60; they even won the title of the best Aguinaldo group during an event held in 1963 at the then Commandeursbaai Club.

5. Sinti bo Cerca – Lyrics and music by Melodia Lurena Schwengle

This song is dedicated to Our Lord Jesus Christ. The song is a prayer that inspires you to want to say a new prayer to Jesus every day. The music is pure Gaita, a ñapa (gift) on the CD. May God bless Lurena and continue to inspire her to play her magic on the whole community of Aruba.

6. Ta bo mes – Lyric and music by Boy Dap

End of the year is a season to spend with the family and there is nothing more delightful than to dance on the rhythm of music we all know.

This is a song that can be played the whole year thru and is very entertaining at family parties

7. Señor mi ke ta manera Bo – Adapted to Papiamentu by Ernst Keke Willems

Although it is impossible for us to be like Jesus Christ, still we pray every day to him for guidance and strength to become better persons. Just a few words but with a profound significance. The song is already played all over Curacao.

8. Ata mi serca Bo – Adapted to Papiamentu by Junaida Ferrero

Jesus Christ is pleased when every day we say a new prayer to him. This is a song dedicated to Him. Jesus Christ, I want to be always near you, here I am, close to you. AMEN

9. Cancion di ñapa - Sinti Bo Cerca – Acoustic Gaita, like it was in yesteryears.

This song will take you back to the beautiful times of past. Lyrics and music by Lurena Schwengle.

And, we must not forget the musician who gives the CD a Lively touch. Without them this was not possible. With much pride we give credit to Raul Piar: Piano, arrangement programming and recording; Irving Vis: Tambora, Furruc, Conga, mixing and materializing; Jefferson Gomez: Wiri, Campana, Raspa and Timbal; Everick Rincons: Cuarta; Aldwin; Base; Vivienne Gomez, Judiska Vis and Vinessa Kock: backup singers; and, last but not, Solid Sound HD Recording Studio: Recording, Mixing and materialization.







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Mr. Roger Edwards and Mr. Dwight Burgett honored at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa

Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) honoured Mr. Roger Edwards and Mr. Dwight Burgett, from Georgia, as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. They have been vacationing on Aruba for 15 consecutive years.

With words of gratitude the very emotional gentlemen express their joy for being honoured with such a distinction. They are very pleased with the service they receive from the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa. The staff treat them with a lot of consideration, just like family. And the beach... amazing.

During a small ceremony on their behalf, ATA rep, Castro Perez handed them a handsome certificate thanking them for their love for Aruba. Also present were GM Edgard Roelofs, Assistant Operations Manager Rita van Volleveld and Reservation Manager Vivian Frank.



Sci-Tech

Google Adding Doodles to its Mobile Homepage

Google said Wednesday that it will bring its popular Google homepage doodles to the mobile version of its search engine.

The doodles will soon be visible on devices with Android 2.0 and higher and Apple iOS 3.0 and higher. "In fact, almost all of the doodles we show on our desktop homepage will now have corresponding mobile versions on these phones," Google said in a blog post.

Google rarely makes it doodles available on mobile;

the first instance of a mobile Google doodle was in August 2008 in celebration of the 2008 Olympic Summer Games.

On Wednesday, Google.com featured a doodle in honor of the 55th anniversary of when Rose Parks refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama bus.

It's not the first time Google has honored a famous figure posthumously. Earlier this year, Google dedicated its doodle to late jazz trum-

peter Dizzy Gillespie on what would have been his 93rd birthday, as well as author Robert Louis Stevenson. Prior to that, John Lennon's would-be 70th birthday was celebrated with a video doodle set to the song "Imagine" on Oct. 8.

Doodles have marked several other different significant dates events this year including the Flintstones' 50th anniversary and 30 years of Pac-Man.

Chinese army must deal with cyberwarfare: state media



Soldiers from the People's Liberation Army participate in the opening ceremony for the Asian Games in Guangzhou in November 2010. China's army should seriously consider how to deal with cyberwarfare amid severe threats to online and information security, state media said Thursday, days after authorities detained hundreds of hackers.

BEIJING (AFP) — China's army should seriously consider how to deal with cyberwarfare amid severe threats to online and information security, state media said Thursday, days after authorities detained hundreds of hackers.

"The spread of information is developing at an unprecedented rate... bringing severe challenges to information and Internet security," the state-run People's Liberation Army Daily reported.

"Military commanders must seriously consider how to deal with the issue of cyberwarfare."

The comments come just days after Chinese authorities said they had detained more than 460 suspected hackers and closed a number of websites that teach people how to

hack, warning that cyberattacks were rampant across the nation.

According to a notice on the Ministry of Public Security's website posted on Tuesday, police had cracked a total of 180 hacking cases within China, which has the world's largest online population of at least 420 million users.

"Currently the situation regarding cyberattacks in China is still extremely grim, and hacking attacks domestically are still widespread," the ministry said in the notice.

However at least one of the websites that authorities said had been closed down was still accessible on Thursday under a different domain name.

The ministry was not

available for comment.

The cases were all within China and no mention was made of any foreign cyberattacks, amid increasing accusations of organised computer hacking originating from the Asian nation.

The accusations came to the fore again this week when whistleblower site WikiLeaks released secret US diplomatic files alleging hackers backed by the Chinese state had attacked the computers of Google and Western governments.

Earlier this year, Google waged a high-profile spat with Beijing over government censorship and cyberattacks against it and more than 20 other companies. The US web giant eventually reduced its presence in China.





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Young S.Koreans face midnight ban for online games



SEOUL — South Korea's government is close to adopting a "Cinderella" law to ban youngsters from playing online games past midnight amid growing concerns about Internet addiction, officials said Thursday.

A bill to be submitted to parliament as early as this month will require South Korean online game companies to cut off services at midnight for users registered as younger than 16, the culture and family ministries said.

"The thing about online games is, once you are in it, it is extremely hard to get out of it, especially if you are a young kid," Jo Rin, a ministry official in charge of the law, told AFP.

"A lot of kids play games all night long and have trouble studying at school and going about their normal lives during daytime. We believe the law is necessary to ensure their health and a right to sleep."

The online services would resume at six the following morning, he said, adding there would be a year-long waiting period until the law takes effect so that companies can prepare for it.

The government is also considering requiring companies to limit young users' access to online games to a maximum number of hours a week or a day if parents request this, said Jo.

South Korea is one of the world's most wired societies, but there have been sporadic reports of deaths related to Internet game addiction.

Last month a 15-year-old South Korean boy committed

suicide after killing his mother for scolding him over playing computer games too much.

In February a 32-year-old man died after reportedly playing for five days with few breaks.

A month later police arrested a couple accused of leaving their baby daughter to starve to death while they raised a "virtual" child on the Internet. The baby had long been malnourished, an autopsy showed.

The government, which estimates that South Korea has about two million web addicts, is already launching one campaign to combat the affliction.

From next year, it will offer free software to people at risk, to limit the time they spend on the web.

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Health & Living

Working with pesticides linked to dementia



PARIS (AFP) - Long-term exposure to pesticides may increase the risk of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, according to a study released Thursday. Workers "directly exposed" to bug and weed killers while toiling in the prestigious vineyards of Bordeaux, France were five times more likely to score less well on a battery of neurological tests than those with minimal or no exposure, the study found.

As revealing, this high-exposure group was twice as likely to register a significantly sharp drop in a key test -- frequently used to diagnose dementia -- repeated four years after the initial examination.

The drop "is particularly striking in view of the short duration of follow up and the relatively young age of the

participants," mostly in their late 40s or 50s, the authors said.

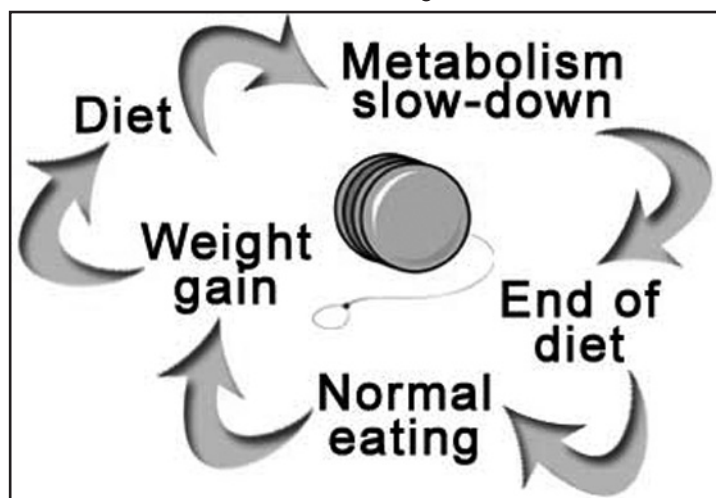
The findings, published in the peer-reviewed journal Occupational and Environmental Medicine, add to a growing body of evidence suggesting that chronic use of pesticides in agriculture boosts the risk of neurological disorders.

France has the highest use of insecticides and herbicides in Europe, and the fourth highest worldwide after the United States, Japan and Brazil.

More than 800,000 people in France are exposed in the agriculture sector, as were another 800,000 who are now retired.

Worldwide the number of labourers who work regularly with pesticides is counted in the tens, if not the hundreds, of millions.

Yo-yo dieting alters brain's response to stress: study



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Dieters who drop a lot of weight quickly could be more likely to put all the pounds back on, and then some, because of changes in the way their brains respond to stress, a study published Tuesday shows.

Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania, led by Tracy Bale, studied the behavior and hormone levels of mice on restricted diets and found that stressed-out mice with a history of dieting ate more high-fat foods than similarly stressed mice that had not been on a diet.

After three weeks on their reduced calorie diet, the mice in the study lost 10-15 percent of their body weight, similar to what humans can lose on a diet, says the study published in the Journal of Neuroscience.

Bale and her colleagues found that the mice had increased levels of the stress hormone corticosterone, and in a test where they were hung by their tails, they spent more time just hanging there, immobile, than the control mice. The researchers called that "depressive-like behavior."

The researchers also found that several genes that play a key role in regulating stress and eating patterns had changed in the dieting mice.

Previous research has shown that experiences can

alter the form and structure of DNA, an effect known as epigenetics.

Even after the mice were allowed to eat their fill and had returned to their normal weights, the epigenetic changes remained, the study found.

When the researchers put the rodents in stressful situations and monitored how much fatty food they ate, they found that the mice that had been on a diet ate more than the control group of rodents, that hadn't been on a weight-loss regime.

The findings illustrate why a piece of pizza is so appealing after a stressful day at work, and also help to explain why so many people who want to lose weight get

trapped in the "yo-yo diet" cycle, where they lose weight, only to gain it all back and then some, the study says.

"These results suggest that dieting not only increases stress, making successful dieting more difficult, but that it may actually 'reprogram' how the brain responds to future stress and emotional drives for food," Bale said.

Jeffrey Zigman, an expert in endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, said the mice in the study experienced conditions that mimicked the stress that people often experience.

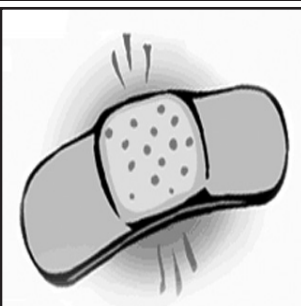
"This study highlights the difficult road that human dieters often travel to attain and maintain their weight loss goals," said Zigman, who was not involved in the study.

"It also suggests that management of stress during dieting may be key to achieving those goals."

One in three Americans is considered obese, according to official health figures.

Dieting is big business in the United States, where consumers dish out between 33 and 100 billion dollars per year on weight loss diets, supplements, books and other programs.

TIP: Recognizing a Bleeding Disorder



from a minor injury.

*Bleeding excessively or for a long time.

*Having difficulty stopping a nosebleed.

*Being anemic.

A bleeding disorder, such as hemophilia, makes it difficult for a person to stop bleeding.

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* Developing a big bruise

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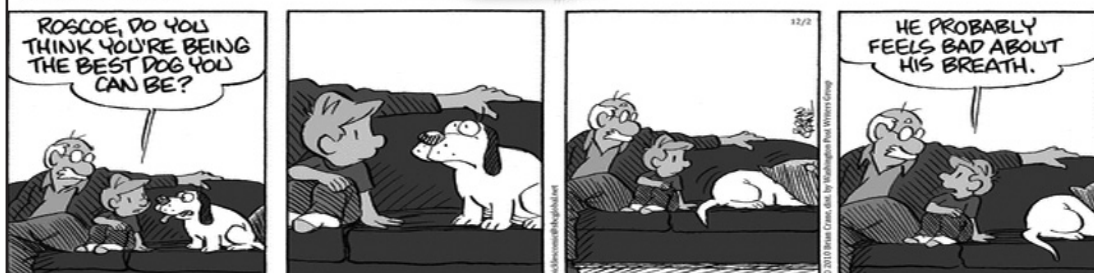
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ACROSS

1. Soapstone
5. Counterfeit
9. Alone
13. Cushions
17. Director Kazan
18. Arizona Indian
19. Eager
20. African lily
21. Lantern
22. Pub potables
23. February missive
25. Bookworm's hangout
27. Nitwit
29. Fall flower
30. Cooler contents
31. Fibber
32. Infant
34. Vote in
37. Mixed-breed canine
38. Rattles
39. Crusty dessert
42. Marathon, for one
43. Malone of "Cheers" et al.

44. Make coffee

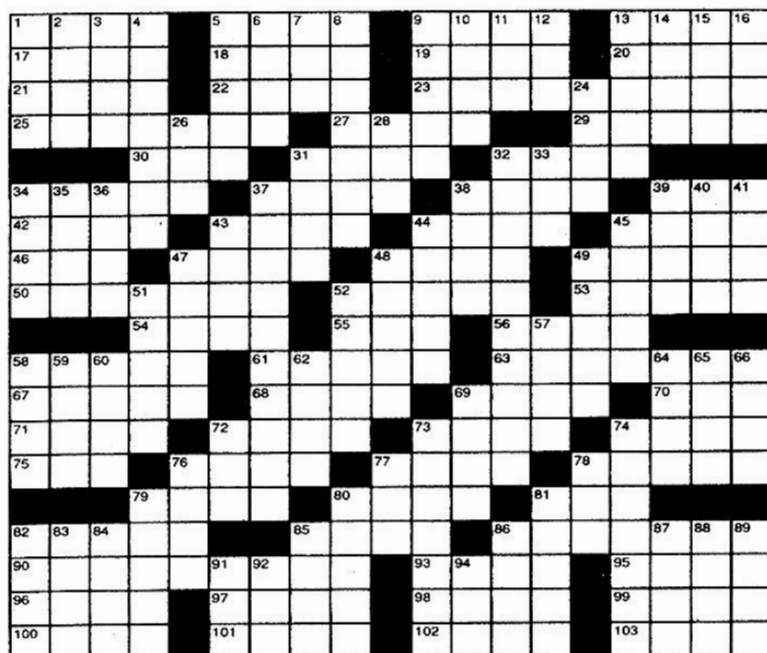
45. Liquid measure
46. Timber tree
47. Petticoat
48. Seize
49. Spanish dance
50. Halted
52. Salty solution
53. German steel city
54. Astronaut Sally
55. Dawdle
56. Rave
58. Fundamental
61. Lacks
63. Cardigan, for one
67. Foe
68. Socks
69. Talk
70. Cutting tool
71. Sound
72. Outlaws
73. Actor Donahue
74. Simmer
75. Plus
76. Speaker's platform

77. Let fall
78. Out of practice
79. Cherished
80. Deckhands
81. Press for payment
82. Virile gents
85. Coves
86. Circus performer
90. Galoshes
93. Chowder
95. Zhivago's lover
96. Belgrade native
97. Encourage
98. Otherwise
99. Give forth
100. Playing card
101. Become weary
102. Gels
103. Copenhagen native

DOWN

1. Tattle
2. Jai
3. Bough
4. Whim
5. Percentage
6. Sacred
7. Gibbon
8. Outsiders

9. Relish
10. Ellipse
11. "___ Abner"
12. Pindar poem
13. Singer Cline
14. Dismounted
15. Finished
16. Prophet
24. Collars
26. Behave
28. Cereal grain
31. Chunk
32. Kind of quartet
33. Biblical zoo
34. Generations
35. Final
36. Reverberate
37. Certain fern
38. Actress Stapleton
39. Brooches
40. "Bus Stop" playwright
41. Short jacket
43. Luge
44. Stuffed shirts
45. Macaroni
47. Zesty
48. Report-card mark
49. Belief
51. Top-drawer
52. Consecrate
57. Apart
58. Greek letter
59. Shortly
60. Transmit
62. Eternities
64. New Mexico town
65. Freeway ramp
66. Depend
69. Brag
72. Ewe said it!
73. Locks
74. Botched
76. TV rooms
77. Arid
78. Floor mat
79. Churchill Downs event
80. Social class
81. Fools
82. Emcee
83. At all times
84. Simple
85. On-tap drink
86. Fair
87. Tibetan monk
88. Ireland
89. Charge
91. Stetson, for one
92. Kimono sash
94. Bravo!



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9	9	8	1	8	2	7	6	2
2	7	2	6	8	9	8	1	9
1	8	6	9	7	2	8	9	9
7	2	2	9	9	1	6	8	8
6	9	9	8	2	8	2	7	1
8	1	8	7	2	6	9	9	2
8	8	7	2	9	9	1	2	6
2	6	9	2	1	8	8	9	7
9	2	1	8	6	7	9	2	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AFP) -- A Malaysian model poses inside a Phiaro concept car during a press tour of the Kuala Lumpur International Motor Show 2010 in Kuala Lumpur. Carmakers have gathered at the Kuala Lumpur International Motor Show 2010, which opens to the public today, to premiere dozens of new models and showcase a whole range of new cars ready to hit the road.



EMERYVILLE, California (AFP) -- A clay model shows how mushrooms will grow from a home mushroom growing kit at Back to the Roots (BTTR) in Emeryville, California. Back to the Roots was founded by U.C. Berkeley Haas School of Business graduates Nikhil Arora and Alejandro Velez when they learned that they could grow mushrooms using used coffee grounds. They started off growing mushrooms for local stores and have now branched out to make kits for people to grow mushrooms easily at home. The kits are guaranteed to produce at least two crops of oyster mushrooms and cost \$19.95



BORDEAUX, France (AFP) -- Visitors look at barrels at the Vinitech wine professional fair in Bordeaux, southwestern France. More than 50 000 persons attended the fair which presented new equipment for winemaking process. The fair ended yesterday.

IMF chief says Europe debt crisis still serious

NEW DELHI, India (AFP) -- The chief of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said yesterday the debt crisis in Europe remained serious but he tipped Ireland to recover rapidly after its weekend bailout.

On Sunday, the European Union and the IMF announced an 85-billion-euro (111-billion-dollar) rescue package for Ireland to shore up its banking sector and enable the country to meet its debt obligations.

"The crisis in Europe is still strong" with Ireland and Greece "at the edge of a cliff" and some other nations are "not far from the edge of the cliff," IMF managing director Dominique Strauss-Kahn told reporters in New Delhi.

But the Irish rescue "should fix the problems" and the country's economy "will come back on track rather rapidly," he said, adding the IMF stood poised to assist other nations if needed.

His comments came as the European Central Bank announced it would keep buying government bonds, a key part of its stimulus measures to support indebted eurozone

nations, and fight the debt crisis.

Ireland's bailout has calmed fears about its economy but intensified worries the debt crisis could engulf financial stragglers Portugal and Spain. Greece, which has chronic finance problems, received a 110-billion-euro bailout in May.

Strauss-Kahn contrasted Asia's economic vitality with a sluggish recovery in Europe and the United States.

"In parts of world, in Asia, South America and parts of Africa, growth is going well," Strauss-Kahn added, paying tribute to India which he said has "become an economic superpower."

But he said India, along with other fast-growing Asian nations, now needed to play a bigger role in the global financial system, saying "with economic strength comes responsibility."

"It is impossible to be a free rider," he said.

He cautioned that Asian nations including India, which posted nearly nine percent economic growth in the last financial quarter, could face overheating problems as

they bounce back from the global crisis.

But he said Indian authorities were managing the country's inflation and other problems well.

Globally, Strauss-Kahn said, recovery was "moving along, but is still emerging and fragile."

The former French finance minister said he was happy about opinion polls in France indicating his popularity among the French public, but dodged questions about whether he would be a candidate in the presidential polls slated for 2012.

Strauss-Kahn, whose IMF term ends in 2012, said it was urgent that nations continued their economic cooperation as the world pulls out of the global slump.

"Growth policies must be as supportive as possible in advanced economies" that are facing difficulties, he added, defending a recent move by the United States to pump 600 billion dollars into its economy.

"If growth stalls in the US, the consequences for the rest of the world would be huge," he said.

Six European states join moves towards "single sky"

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AFP) -- Five European Union nations plus Switzerland yesterday signed a deal to jointly manage their air space in a crucial new step towards creating a single European sky.

Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland signed an accord to create the "Functional Airspace Block-Europe Central," an area at the core of Europe with one of the world's highest traffic densities and closely interwoven civil and military routes.

Most of the large European airports and major civil and military airways are located in this area, the European Commission said, describing the so-called FABEC deal as "a key step in achieving the Single Euro-

pean Sky."

A single sky would see air control managed according to traffic flows rather than borders, enabling shorter flights, a 10 percent cut in fuel and savings of two to three billion euros a year, according to the Commission.

The several functional airspace blocks, or "FABs", would reduce fragmentation of airspace while increasing safety and reducing impact on the environment.

Yesterday's agreement followed a Britain-Ireland FAB, a Denmark-Sweden FAB and Blue Med gathering Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Malta along with associates Tunisia, Egypt and Albania. Other European Union states are expected to sign similar agreements in the next two years.

Transport Commissioner

Siim Kallas said the FABs would "satisfy the growing capacity requirements of all airspace users with a minimum of delays by managing air traffic more dynamically. At the same time, safety standards and overall efficiency will be enhanced."

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

BOMB	SOITS	TWAS	CEBA
CLIO	ROGET	BARRE	RAIL
BASS	OPERA	ILLAD	ORNA
STEPHEN	FOSTER	SSONGS	
ONE	FATES	EAN	
ANTIS	VOTER	ALLEN	
ELL	NEWER	MRS	REED
REARS	DANDY	ROI	SIRE
SAMOA	ANT	OHIOANS	LIB
TROMBONE	BUYS	SEA	SST
PER	DRUMMER	EFT	
ELS	ADS	ORAN	ANDERSON
LIT	NOCTURN	RIO	SEATO
SERB	ONT	STUNT	TESTS
ASIA	ART	ESSES	SOV
PRICE	SMILE	DAISY	
IST	SIEVE	ICE	
BEETHOVENS	SYMPHONIES		
INTO	RINGS	ALERT	MAME
LOON	STOLE	NESTS	EGAD
ESNE	ARES	NASH	DENS

Steak on a Stone-Le Petit Café's specialty



In a time when dining choices and critiques are based on value for your dollar, an old favorite, Le Petit Café, still offers one of the best values not only in price, but quality, quantity and ambiance.

Le Petit Café in Palm Beach offers charming surroundings reminiscent of a European outdoor café. Surrounded by Old World gaslights and an abundance of flora, it provides a delightful and romantic setting. In Oranjestad, diners can enjoy a breathtaking view of the har-

bor; particularly as the sun dips over the horizon and the lights of town set the waters aglow. Taking advantage of their Early Bird Special not only offers a great price for a delicious meal, but put you in the right place at the right time to enjoy Aruba's most spectacular daily performance; our stunning sunsets.



Fish on a stone

Le Petit Café is also located in the Paradise Beach Villas, so whether you are staying in Oranjestad, Palm Beach or Eagle Beach, a La Petit Café restaurant can be found only a short stroll away from you resort, a perfect way to begin or end your day!

Cooking your main course on the stone is a supremely healthy method of preparation, seasoned to perfection and using no fats or oils. Fish in particular is excellent; extremely moist and tasty. A thick cut of filet mignon usually requires cutting into smaller sections to cook fully, especially if your preference is medium-well to well done.

Le Petit Café is particularly well known for its "Land and Sea" specialty, filet mignon and lobster tail; a gourmet treat when served in their signature fashion. The restaurant also offers a diverse menu of pastas and tempting gourmet appetizers such as seafood crepes, crispy calamari, and escargot. For family members in the mood for something different there are several dishes to choose from, such as chicken parmesan, so a large family with different ideas of what they want for dinner can easily be accommodated.

We all know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and Le Petit Café has also long been famous for the best value for breakfast on Aruba. They still offer an American breakfast for \$6.95 and a full breakfast buffet for \$10.95, another unbeatable value!

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a

very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive

land life. All homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a



amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the is-

modest fee. Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



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Brazil clown secures congress seat after literacy test

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AFP) — A television clown elected to Brazil's congress can take up his lawmaker duties after barely passing a literacy test, the judge overseeing the exam said Wednesday.

Francisco Oliveira, a 45-year-old comic better known by his stage name Tiririca, demonstrated "a minimum of intellect concerning the content (of a text) despite difficulties in writing," the Sao Paulo regional electoral court judge, Aloisio Sergio Rezende Silveira, said.

That result sufficiently disproved critics who had claimed Oliveira could neither read nor write as required of a member of congress under Brazil's constitution, according to the judge. "The electoral court considers someone to be ineligible only if they are totally illiterate," he said.

Oliveira was elected as a



Sao Paulo federal representative in October 3 legislative polls with 1.3 million ballots — the most of any of candidate across the country.

Detractors, including several longtime lawmakers, said Oliveira was bringing Brazil's congress — known for its many corruption scandals — into disrepute, and challenged his candidacy on literacy grounds.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, a former shoeshine boy and metalworker, called the demand for the test an "idiotcy" disrespecting those who voted for Oliveira. He added: "Tiririca is the face of society."

Argentina seeks to rescue oldest theater

GOYA, Argentina (AFP) — The latest controversy to roil Argentina has nothing to do with the soaring inflation rate or next year's presidential election.

Tongues here are wagging instead over the planned sale and possible demolition of the country's oldest playhouse, the historic Solari Theater — seen as an outrage in a nation that prides itself on preserving and promoting its cultural heritage.

Once an architectural gem, the neglected theater in the northern city of Goya, which first opened in 1877, is badly in need of restoration.

But the formerly show-stopping playhouse — also known as Elsa Theater, the name of the daughter of a former owner and still visible on the facade — has fallen on hard times, as has Goya itself, a town of 87,000.

The Solari's once-gleaming facade is now covered with grime and plastered with advertisements. Worse still, its cash-strapped owner recently revealed plans to sell the theater.

"I, for one, would prefer if the government were to buy it," said the building's owner Anibal Olivetti, as he laid out on a table several pictures of the theatre dating back to its grander days.

The building was first purchased by his grandfather nearly a century ago, but Olivetti said he can no longer afford to keep it up. The city of Goya has rented the building from him for the past decade and a half, but the lease is up on December 8.

"It's an expensive piece of the national heritage to maintain," he said.

The small city of Goya has been called "Little Paris" because of its grand 19th century buildings. But it also has earned the dubious distinction of being one of the poorest cities of its size in all of Argentina.

The theater is just one of many of its buildings which have fallen victim to decades of neglect.

The fate of the 130-year old theater has become a contentious talking point on radio, television and at dinner tables around the country.

As a symbol of how it is possible to keep such architectural treasures intact, preservationists point to the successful restoration of the opulent "Colon Theater" in the capital, Buenos Aires.

The 2,500-seat opera



Pictures taken on November 24 of the interior of the Solari Theatre in Goya, Corrientes, Argentina.



house, the largest in South America, recently was restored to its original glamour, showcasing its original crystal chandelier and art-embellished ceiling.

Supporters said The Colon stands a monument to national culture and argue that the less-showy Solari deserves no less loving care.

Olivetti said it could well be purchased by a private owner who he says should have the right to tear it down, even though the government in 2007 declared the theater a national monument.

The designation has provided a measure of protection to the theatre, but Olivetti is trying to have it overturned, given that the building has fallen into such disrepair.

Those who wish to see it restored say removing the designation would be a grievous offense.

"What will happen if the theater doesn't exist anymore?" said Ana Maria Trainini, director of the local ballet company. "There will be a void at the center of our cultural life."

The governor of Corrientes province, Ricardo Colombi, is said to be looking for ways to purchase the building but terms have not yet been discussed.

"I'm not going to wait 10 years until they make up their

minds," said Olivetti, who did not disclose what his asking prices is.

Alongside the fight to save The Solari, preservationists are moving to other battle fronts. Two blocks from the theater, a restoration is already under way of the century-old Social Club.

Meanwhile lawmakers in Buenos Aires are debating a new law that would forbid destroying any building constructed before 1941.

Every time a building of historic significance is claimed by the wrecking ball, said local architect Dacio Agretti, "a part of our memory disappears, a bit our identity is taken away."



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Ward lashes out at NFL hypocrisy over safety

PITTSBURGH (AFP) - Saying the National Football League does not truly care about players or their safety, Pittsburgh Steelers receiver Hines Ward blasted the league over a rules crackdown.

The 34-year-old Seoul-born son of a Korean mother has played in the NFL since the Steelers selected him in the 1998 NFL Draft and says the league is only making a safety push to help obtain an 18-game season in labor talks.

"The league doesn't care about us anyway," Ward said. "They don't care about the safety of the game. If the league was so concerned about the safety, why are you adding two more games on?"

"You talk about you don't want players to drink ... and all you see is beer commercials. You don't want us to



gamble, but then there are (NFL-backed lottery tickets).

NFL officials have talked about expanding the regular season from 16 to 18 games per club in order to boost television and other revenue, although the idea must be approved in labor talks.

Negotiations are under way to replace the current

deal, which expires next year after the Super Bowl.

Ward says there is great confusion among NFL players about what hits are legal and which are not since the NFL crackdown on dangerous hits, with Steelers linebacker James Harrison having been fined 125,000 dollars for four hits this season.

"We don't know what the league wants," Ward said. "If a quarterback gets hit within the play, you can't hit him in the helmet, you can't hit him in the knees. Where can you hit a quarterback? I keep seeing our quarterback getting hit all the time."

Ward, who helped the Steelers win NFL titles in 2006 and 2009 and was named the Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl 40 in 2006, said he thinks a team will lose a game because an official makes a mistaken call for fear of being disciplined by the NFL for not following the new safety crackdown.

"Somebody is going to lose a game because of it," Ward said. "It's going to be a huge play in a playoff game. Somebody's going to hit a quarterback or do something and the referee is going to be too scared to call it. So he's going to call it anyway so he can save his tail."

Harrison was fined on Tuesday for a hit that he said was the same as one that had not been punished earlier in the season.

The Steelers have seen Harrison fined frequently while quarterback Ben Roethlisberger appeared to have his right leg twisted after being tackled by Buffalo's Arthur Moats, who was not penalized even though "Big Ben" is in a walking boot to protect a sprained foot as a result of the play.

Ward warned that the Steelers were not changing how they played no matter what calls were made.

"We're going to keep playing the way we always have been playing," Ward said. "If they fine us, they fine us. It's football. It's always going to be a physical ball game."

Baltimore Ravens linebacker Terrell Suggs said the NFL looks more harshly at quarterback hits upon New England's Tom Brady or Peyton Manning of Indianapolis compared to those upon other signal callers.

"The league has their favorites, one being in Indy and one being with that team up north," Suggs said. "Besides those two, everybody is fair game."

Kim upstages big guns at Hero Honda Indian Open

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Korea's Kim Hyung-Sung made it a memorable first visit to the 1.25 million dollar Hero Honda Indian Open by taking the first round lead with a flawless five-under-par 67 on Thursday.

The 30-year-old, who has struggled with a shoulder injury for most of the year, shot five birdies at the Delhi Golf Club to lead by one from Asian Tour newcomers Namchok Tantipokakul of Thailand and Korea's Baek Seuk-Hyun, Australia's Marcus Both and in-form South African Jbe Kruger.

Sanjay Kumar was India's best performer, also with a 68, in what is the joint richest full field Asian Tour event.

The tournament's big guns, Shiv Kapur and Arjun Atwal of India, Sweden's Daniel Chopra and Irish star Paul McGinley failed to take advantage of ideal scoring conditions.

Kapur, who rued a cold putter, and McGinley shot 71s, Atwal, the first Indian winner on the PGA Tour, returned a "rusty" 73 while

Chopra, a two-time winner in the US, carded a 74.

"It's my first time to India and after today's good score, I think I like this course," smiled Kim, who has three wins in Korea and ended the day with a bogey-free card.

"My putting was very good. I holed three long putts from about 10 yards at the 17th, 18th and third holes. It was good to keep the card bogey free. It's a difficult course and your tee shots need to be good."

The powerful Korean was aggressive off the tee, taking his driver out on 10 occasions on a tight course which penalizes errant driving due to its tree-lined fairways.

Namchok, who at 23 is one of many emerging Thai prospects on the Asian Tour, enjoyed a mixed day with eight birdies against two bogeys and a double bogey. "I played well here at the start of the year in the SAIL Open (where he finished joint 12th). I love the golf course, and that's why I played well again," said the young Thai.

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Harrington one ahead as Ryder Cup stars dominate



SUN CITY (AFP) - Irish golfer Padraig Harrington fired a six-under-par 66 Thursday to take a one-stroke lead after the opening round of the Sun City Challenge.

It was a good start to the five-million-dollar invitation tournament at the 7162-metre Gary Player Country Club for members of the European team that won the Ryder Cup two months ago.

Harrington was part of the side that pipped the United States by one point at Welsh resort Celtic Manor after a four-day thriller and is followed on the leaderboard by three other European heroes.

Ross Fisher fired a 67, fellow Englishman and world number one Lee Westwood began with a 68 and larger-than-life Spaniard Miguel Angel Jimenez carded a 69 in

a first round interrupted by mid-afternoon storm clouds.

Defending champion Robert Allenby of Australia and Englishman Justin Rose had rounds of 70 and the best South Africans were three-time Challenge winner Ernie Els and reigning British Open champion Louis Oosthuizen a shot behind.

Edoardo Molinari, the older of two Italian brothers making a major impact on international golf and the fifth Ryder Cup star in action at the north-west entertainment centre, also had a 71 to share sixth place.

South African Retief Goosen and Dane Anders Hansen matched the course par of 72 and another local, Tim Clark, was the sole competitor to end his round over with a 73 that included a seven at the par-four sixth.

Pittsburgh Pirates ditch Asian prospects

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania (AFP) - The Pittsburgh Pirates, who finished with the worst record in Major League Baseball last season, have given up on one of India's "Million-Dollar Arm" winners and two Taiwan prospects.

The Pirates announced Wednesday that they were releasing right-handed pitcher Dinesh Patel, the India cricket bowler turned baseball pitcher who signed with Pittsburgh in 2008 after being on an India reality television show.

Left-handed pitcher Rinku Singh, who won "Million-Dollar Arm" as baseball scouts sought prospective major league pitchers from

India talent that had never played the game, remains with the Pirates organization.

Singh moved up to Class A this year, still three levels below the major leagues.

Patel, the TV show runner-up, had an 8.59 earned-run average in only 7 1/3 innings last year pitching in rookie league games involving professional newcomers.

Also released by the Pirates were a pair of Taiwan high school hopefuls signed last year - right-handed pitcher Hong Sheng-Cin, with a 14.18 earned-run average in 11 rookie level games, and first baseman Hsu Chih-Wei, who batted .154 over 16 appearances.

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Obama calls FIFA choice of Qatar "wrong decision"

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama said FIFA made the "wrong decision" on Thursday when selecting Qatar over an American bid to host the 2022 World Cup in what will be a major setback for football in America.

"I think it was the wrong decision," Obama said at the White House, joining thousands of disappointed Americans who watched the announcement from Zurich, where a video message from him had been part of the US presentation.

"Obviously we're very disappointed. To come up short is very difficult to take," said US Soccer Federation president Sunil Gulati, who called the defeat "a setback in moving the sport forward" in a long-skeptical US market.

"(Hosting in 2022) was the equivalent of putting your foot on the accelerator. From that point it's an opportunity lost. Will we get there? I'm confident we will. It's going to take longer. It's going to take more work."

It was the second major sport bid loss for Americans in as many years. Obama attended last year's International Olympic Committee vote on the 2016 Summer Games site when his hometown, Chicago, was ousted on the first ballot.

Only minutes after Qatar was announced as FIFA's choice for 2022, frustrated US supporters vented their feelings on US Soccer's Twitter site.

"Gutted", "USA Soccer is set back another 20 years" and "Qatar? Wow. Soccer actually just got less relevant in the US" were among the shocked reactions.

In the wake of a recent FIFA bribery allegations,

fans were less than thrilled about losing the chance to host for the second time.

"Qatar? Time to stop playing along. They can come to us when they want us to care about soccer again. They can bribe us next time," tweeted one angry fan.

In 1994, the US World Cup set a record by selling 3,587,538 tickets for 52 matches and sparked the launch of Major League Soccer, which has survived for 15 years and lured England star David Beckham to play in Los Angeles.

The MLS website featured several posts along the lines of "FIFA=corruption" and "If anyone needed confirmation that the whole process is rigged, there ya go".

Worst stuns first as lowly Clippers rip NBA-best Spurs

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - In a stunning reversal of fortune for the best and worst clubs in the NBA, the Los Angeles Clippers upset San Antonio 90-85 on Wednesday, snapping an 18-game losing streak to the Spurs.

Blake Griffin scored 31 points and grabbed 13 rebounds while Eric Gordon added 21 points for the Clippers, who remained the NBA's worst club at 4-15 despite the shocking triumph.

The NBA-best Spurs, who fell to 15-3, suffered their first road loss of the season. They were bidding for a 9-0 road start that only four teams in NBA history have achieved, all of them having gone on to win a season championship.

'Big Ben' leads Steelers into pivotal game with Ravens



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Ben Roethlisberger, serving a four-game ban the first time his Pittsburgh Steelers faced Baltimore, figures to be the focus of attention in Sunday's NFL rematch of the AFC North division co-leaders.

"Big Ben", the quarterback who guided the Steelers to Super Bowl triumphs in 2006 and 2009, was out for violating the league's personal conduct policy after accusations of assaulting a college student after a night of drinking in March.

While Roethlisberger was not charged, the situation was deemed serious enough for NFL commissioner Roger Goodell to make him the first NFL player not charged or arrested to be suspended under the conduct policy.

Roethlisberger comes into the showdown of 8-3 clubs with a sprained right foot but is expected to play after missing Baltimore's 17-14 triumph at Pittsburgh on October 3.

The Ravens will also welcome back a key player who

missed the first game, with safety Ed Reed back after being sidelined earlier following hip surgery.

"He can cover the whole field, maybe one of the best players I've ever played against," Roethlisberger said. "I have nothing but respect for that guy when he is on the field."

The teams have become arch rivals after years of fighting for playoff positions.

"We hate them a lot," said Haloti Ngata, a Ravens linebacker of Tongan ancestry. "It's a game we look forward to. We're so alike but we dislike each other that much."

Together with Monday night's matchup between the AFC East division co-leaders, the New England Patriots and New York Jets at an NFL-best 9-2, the Ravens-Steelers game will play a huge role in focusing the AFC playoff picture.

If Baltimore beats Pittsburgh again, the Ravens will own a tie-breaker edge for the division title and join the Jets-Patriots winner as the

teams to beat for the two first-round playoff byes as well as a home-field edge in round two.

Atlanta, the NFL's only other 9-2 club, will try to maintain its NFC South division lead in a key matchup at division foe Tampa Bay, 7-4.

The Falcons enter the weekend one game ahead of the reigning Super Bowl champion New Orleans Saints, who visit woeful Cincinnati, 2-9.

Another division race in the spotlight will be in the AFC South, where Indianapolis and Jacksonville share the lead at 6-5 with Houston and Tennessee on their heels at 5-6.

Tennessee will play host to Jacksonville while the coliding Colts entertain Dallas, 3-8.

Sunday's other games find San Francisco at Green Bay, Denver at Kansas City, Buffalo at Minnesota, Cleveland at Miami, Chicago at Detroit, Washington at the New York Giants, St. Louis at Arizona, Carolina at Seattle and Oakland at San Diego.

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Russia, Qatar triumph at World Cup vote



At left: Russia's deputy prime minister Igor Shuvalov, with the trophy after Russia was announced as host of the 2018 Soccer World Cup, and at right: Emir of the State of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani (R) and his wife Sheikha Moza bint Nasser Al-Missned (C) receive the World Cup trophy from FIFA President Joseph Blatter after the official announcement that Qatar will host the 2022 World Cup

ZURICH (AFP) - Russia and the tiny Gulf state of Qatar were awarded the 2018 and 2022 World Cups Thursday after an acrimonious bidding war marred by allegations of corruption and illegal deal-making.

The bombshell conclusion to two years of frenzied lobbying saw world football supremo Sepp Blatter reveal the winners following a secret ballot of 22 FIFA executive committee members in Zurich.

The announcement means the World Cup will be staged in two countries which have never hosted the event before following the 2014 tournament in Brazil.

Russia prevailed in the 2018 race, upsetting England and joint bids from Spain and Portugal and Belgium and the Netherlands.

The outcome represented a stunning comeback for Russia, whose campaign had believed to be in trouble after Prime Minister Vladimir Putin declined to join the lobbying effort in Zurich.

But the shock of the day came in the 2022 race, where

Qatar beat off stiff competition from the United States, Australia and Asian rivals South Korea and Japan in a remarkable result.

Qatar 2022 bid president Mohammed bin Hamad Al-Thani promised: "We won't let you down. You will be proud of us, proud of the Middle East."

Although the Qataris have promised to build an array of state of the art stadia which are climate-controlled, the technology has never been tested on a large-scale before.

The results brought the curtain down on the most controversial World Cup votes in years, with FIFA facing myriad allegations of corruption which led to two executive committee members being suspended.

FIFA president Blatter has acknowledged that the decision to stage votes for two tournaments at the same time was a mistake, making illegal horse-trading between bids inevitable.

Qatar shrugged off fears of searing summer heat to become the first Arab, Middle Eastern or Muslim country to

be awarded the right to stage football's World Cup.

The young bid team successfully swayed FIFA's ageing grandees with promises of a glitzy, compact and carbon-neutral World Cup that will be held in solar-powered stadiums where temperatures would be maintained at a comfortable 27 degrees Celsius with the help of novel cooling technology.

A FIFA technical committee inspection report released earlier this month dubbed Qatar a potential "health risk" for players and spectators because of temperatures in June and July that hover around the 50 degree Celsius mark.

Qatar, a small strip of land that juts out into the Gulf, has a population of just over 1.5 million inhabitants, with little perceived footballing tradition.

Qatar 2022 bid chief executive Hassan al-Thawadi promised to harness huge growth in the region's football-inspired young population, as well as its lucrative television viewing opportunities in a time zone in between east and west.

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